

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2006

Rep. Henry Bonilla
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration and
Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration and
Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bonilla and Ranking Member DeLauro:


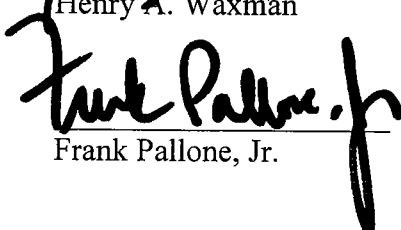
As you begin work on the fiscal year 2007 (FY07) Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations bill we urge you to increase funding for the Office of Generic Drugs by \$15 million.

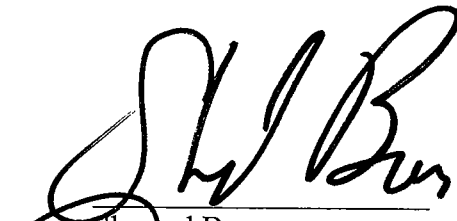
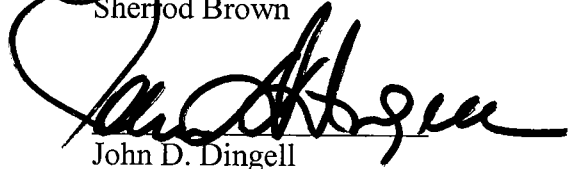
As you know, the high cost of prescription drugs is one of the most pressing health care issues presently confronting our country. In recent years, however, we have been able to slow the growth of prescription drug spending by increasing the use of lower-price generic drugs.

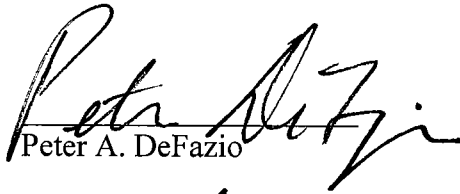
Increasing the proportion of drugs that are dispensed as generics could produce additional cost savings. Unfortunately, due to insufficient resources, the Office of Generic Drugs at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been unable to process all the generic drug applications it receives, thereby delaying access to affordable medicines. Indeed, a backlog of more than 800 applications presently exists at the Office of Generic Drugs. Increased funding for additional staff to review applications could help alleviate this backlog and accelerate the introduction of generic products.

Bringing generic drugs to market in a more timely fashion is an important tool in trying to reduce health care spending. Accordingly, we respectfully urge you to increase funding for the Office of Generic Drugs in the FY07 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations bill by \$15 million. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Henry A. Waxman

Frank Pallone, Jr.

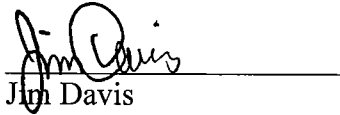

Sherrod Brown

John D. Dingell

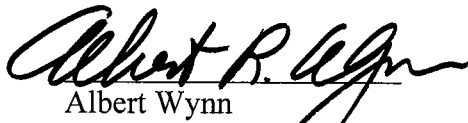

Peter A. DeFazio

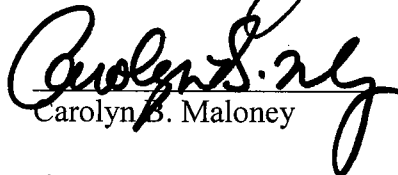

Thomas H. Allen

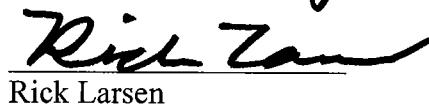

Danny K. Davis


Lois Capps

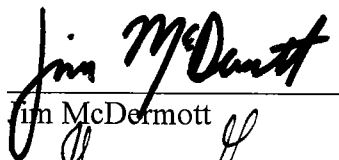

Jim Davis

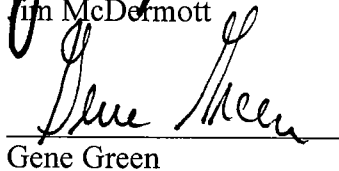

Albert Wynn


Carolyn B. Maloney

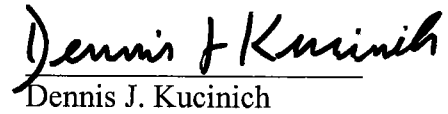

Rick Larsen


Doris O. Matsui

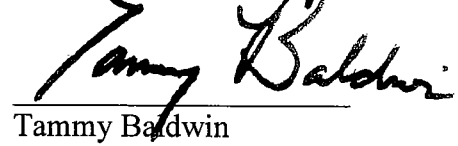

Jim McDermott


Gene Green

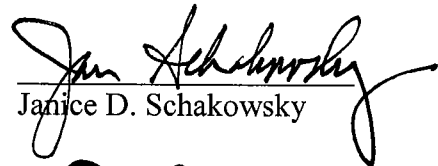

Michael R. McNulty

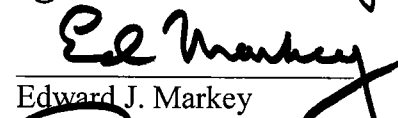

Dennis J. Kucinich

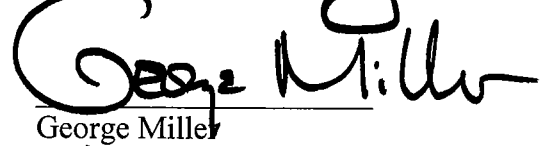

Lloyd Doggett

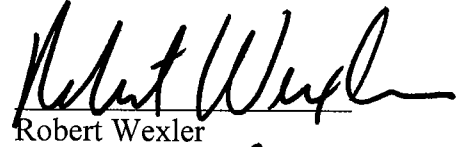

Tammy Baldwin


Rahm Emanuel


Janice D. Schakowsky

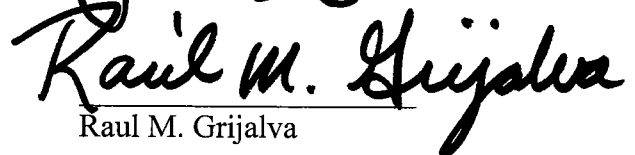

Edward J. Markey

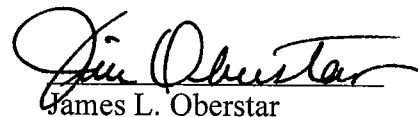

George Miller


Robert Wexler


Barney Frank


John Conyers

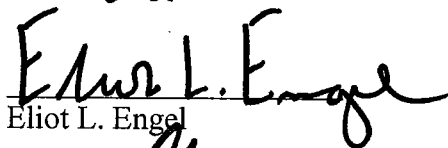

Raul M. Grijalva


James L. Oberstar

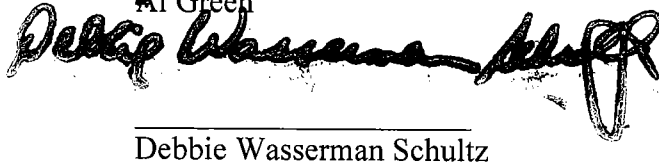

Fortney Pete Stark

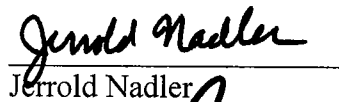

Carolyn McCarthy

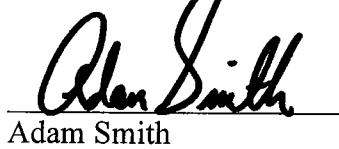

William L. Jefferson

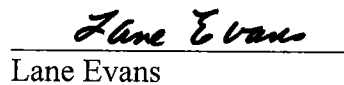

Eliot L. Engel

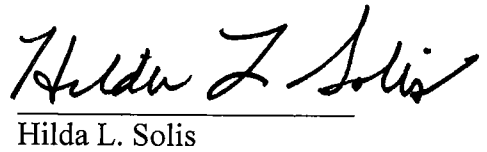

Al Green

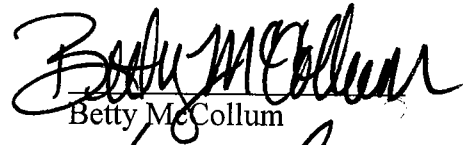

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

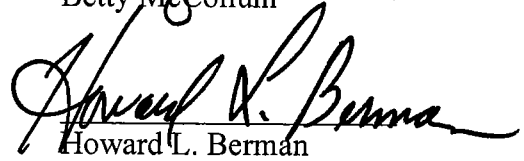

Jerrold Nadler

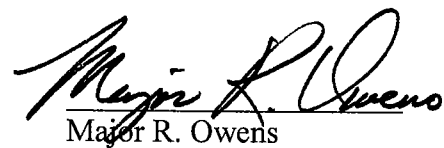

Adam Smith

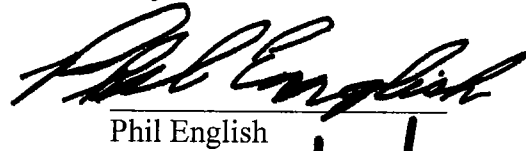

Lane Evans

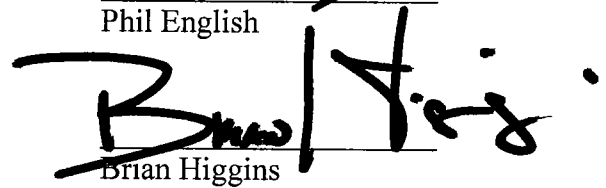

Hilda L. Solis

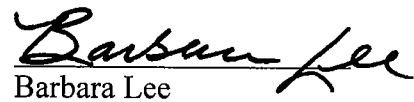

Betty McCollum

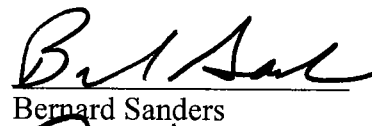

Howard L. Berman

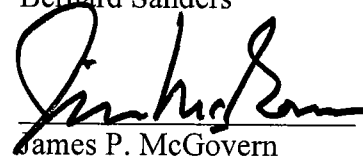

Major R. Owens


Phil English


Brian Higgins


Barbara Lee


Bernard Sanders


James P. McGovern